
STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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MEMORANDUM

To: County Assessors, Township Assessors, Township Trustee/Assessors, County Auditors,
County Councils & County Treasurers

From: Assessment Division, Department of Local Government Finance

Date: June 2006

Subject: County Option Dog Tax

CC: State Board of Accounts

Effective July 1, 2006, the "County Option Dog Tax" (see IC 6--9-39 as added by HEA 1001-2006) replaces the dog tag tax previously reported and collected through the Individual Personal Property Tax Return (Form 101). The fiscal body of a county may adopt an ordinance to impose a tax on a person who harbors or keeps a taxable dog in or near the person's premises in the county, regardless of who owns the taxable dog. A "taxable dog" means a dog at least six (6) months of age. A person who harbors or keeps a taxable dog in the county is liable for the tax, which may not exceed five dollars (\$5) per year for each taxable dog.

The maximum amount of county option dog tax per year that may be imposed by an ordinance for taxable dogs kept in a kennel for breeding, boarding, training, or sale is an amount equal to the lesser of:

- (1) the county option dog tax liability calculated for taxable dogs kept in the kennel for breeding, boarding, training, or sale; or
- (2) for a kennel in which:
 - (A) more than six (6) taxable dogs are kept for breeding, boarding, training, or sale, fifty dollars (\$50); or
 - (B) not more than six (6) taxable dogs are kept for breeding, boarding, training, or sale, thirty dollars (\$30).

The fiscal body of a county may collect a county option dog tax imposed by any combination of the following methods:

- (1) By designating one (1) or more persons in the county to collect the tax.
- (2) By requiring a person who harbors or keeps a taxable dog to submit a complete and accurate county option dog tax return.
- (3) By a method other than a method described in subdivision (1) or (2) as determined by the fiscal body of the county.

A designee under subsection (1) may retain a fee from the tax collected for each taxable dog in an

amount determined by the fiscal body not to exceed seventy-five cents (\$0.75). A designee shall remit the balance of the money collected to the county treasurer by the tenth day of each month. If the fiscal body chooses to collect a county option dog tax by requiring the submission of a county option dog tax return, the county treasurer may include a county option dog tax return form with every property tax statement that is mailed to a person under IC 6-1.1-22-8(a)(1).

If a county fiscal body adopts an ordinance, the county treasurer shall establish a county option dog tax fund. At the time a county option dog tax fund is established, the county treasurer shall establish a canine research and education account within the county option dog tax fund. Interest and investment income derived from money in a county option dog tax fund becomes part of the county option dog tax fund. Money in a county's county option dog tax fund at the end of a calendar year does not revert to the county's general fund.

Money deposited in the county option dog tax fund shall be allocated as follows:

- 1) Twenty percent (20%) for the canine research and education account
- 2) Eighty percent (80%) for uses designated by the fiscal body of the county

The county auditor and treasurer shall distribute the revenue in the county option dog tax fund in the settlement procedures outlined in IC 6-1.1-27. The twenty percent (20%) in the canine research and education account shall be paid to the state treasurer for use by the Purdue University School of Veterinary Science and Medicine. The eighty percent (80%) will be distributed to the county to be appropriated by the council for the following uses:

- 1) The use of animal care facilities
- 2) Animal control, including dead animal disposal
- 3) Reimbursement to farmers for livestock kills
- 4) Reimbursement to people who have undergone rabies post exposure prophylaxis.

Attached is a copy of a new county option dog tax return form that a county may use for the reporting of county option dog tax liability.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the State Board of Accounts at (317) 232-2513.